

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10

AID-05 PC-05 SY-05 SCCT-01 DHA-02 CU-04 OC-06 CCO-00

SCSE-00 SCA-01 OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 IO-13 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /118 W

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O R 061500Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4959

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1314

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SF

SUBJECT: CLASHES AT CLOSE OF THIRD DAY OF SOWETO DEMONSTRATIONS

1. DURING COURSE OF THIRD DAY OF SOWETO DEMONSTRATIONS, SERIOUS CLASHES OCCURRED BETWEEN POLICE AND ROVING BANDS OF STUDENTS. IN PRINCIPAL CLASH AT UNCLE TOM'S HALL IN ORLANDO WEST SECTION OF SOWETO PLUS OTHERS AT PHEFFENI, DUBE, AND KLIPSPRUIT NEARBY, LARGE GROUPS OF STUDENTS AND OTHERS, WHO WERE INTIMIDATING COMMUTERS, STONING MOTORISTS, OVERTURNING VEHICLES, AND SETTING FIRES TO BUILDINGS, WERE TEARGASSED BY POLICE AND IN SOME CASES FIRED ON. JOHANNESBURG STAR REPORTED AT END OF AFTERNOON THAT AT LEAST THREE DEMONSTRATORS HAD BEEN KILLED OR INJURED BY GUNFIRE.

2. UNREST IN MORNING DEVELOPED BY AFTERNOON INTO RUNNING SKIRMISHES BETWEEN GROUPS OF YOUTHS AND POLICE. POLICE WERE PUT ON STANDBY THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AND REIN-
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FORCEMENTS SENT INTO SOWETO. POLICE COMMISSIONER PRINSLOO

WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE DISTURBANCES SHOW NO SIGN OF ENDING."

3. BY NOONTIME, BUS SERVICE WITHIN SOWETO WAS CANCELLED, THOUGH SERVICE TO OUTSKIRTS OF SOWETO CONTINUED, ALONG WITH TRAIN SERVICE.

4. SIMILAR DISTURBANCES BEGAN TO ERUPT IN NEW AREAS OF REEF, INCLUDING NATALSPRUIT (NEAR GERMISTON) AND MHLUZI (NEAR MIDDELBURG), THOUGH FAR EAST RAND REMAINED GENERALLY CALM.

5. ALONG WITH MOST EMPLOYERS IN JOHANNESBURG WITH BLACK WORKERS, CONGEN RELEASED ITS BLACK EMPLOYEES AT NOON. THEY WERE FEARFUL OF MEETING STUDENTS WHO MIGHT STONE THEM FOR DEFYING STUDENT CALL FOR WORK BOYCOTT OR OF ENCOUNTERING TSOTSIS WHO MIGHT FLEECE THEM. STILL, THEY WISHED REJOIN FAMILIES AT THEIR HOMES.

6. MERCHANTS HAVE BEEN PREVENTED BY POLICE FROM ENTERING SOWETO, SO RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN COMPELLED WALK LONG DISTANCES TO BUY FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES. NO WHITES HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO SOWETO SINCE JUNE 16 RIOTS WITHOUT PERMITS, AND IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT TO SEEK ENTRY NOW ON ANY GROUND.
JOHNSON

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